

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the application in light of the Office Action dated March 17, 2009. Claims 1-28 are pending and stand rejected. In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0103264 A1 to Allam et al. ("*Allam*") in view of U.K. Publication No. 2,168,718 A to Horton ("*Horton*"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the comments set forth below.

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no suggestion or motivation to combine *Allam* with *Horton*. The Office Action asserts metal dusting as the reason for combining *Allam* with the cooling process disclosed in *Horton* to add a stream of reactive diluent coolant between the partial oxidation and the heat reforming of *Allam*. Though, Applicant submits that the temperatures between the POX R1 and the GHR R2 of *Allam* operate at temperatures where metal dusting does not occur. In fact, the exact reference cited by the Office Action, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0155061, teaches that metal dusting occurs in the temperature range of 400° C to 700 ° C. In contrast, *Allam* teaches that the temperature between the POX R1 and the GHR R2 is 1305° C. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-28.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all Claims.

If the present application is not allowed and/or if one or more of the rejections is maintained, Applicants hereby request a telephone conference with the Examiner and further request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to schedule the telephone conference.

No fees are believed to be due. However, please apply any deficiencies or any other required fees or any credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing the attorney docket number shown above.

Respectfully submitted,

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